



VIDALIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

202 Vernon Stevens Blvd.
Vidalia, La 71373
Phone (318) 336-5254 Fax (318) 336-6261
Joey Merrill, Chief of Police

October 15, 2020

Louisiana Ethics Administration Program
P. O. Box 4368
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821

RE: ADVISORY OPINION

To Whom It May Concern:

Your advisory opinion is requested by Joey Merrill, Chief of Police, concerning the following:

There is a business in our town, Riverpark Medical Center, that would like to make a monetary donation to the police department. Would the police department be able to legally accept the donation to be used in whatever way the chief sees a need? Or does the donation have to be used for a certain project or program?

Chief Merrill has always tried to do something for the families of deceased residents of the town. For example, purchase flower arrangements for the funeral or purchase food trays for the families. Can the donation be used for goods such as this?

Also, if it is ethical/legal for the department to accept the donation, could it be put into a checking account and used for these purchases? Can the name on the checking account be Vidalia Police Department?

We are under the assumption, by City Hall, that any check made payable to the police department has to be deposited into the General Funds. I would also like the opinion concerning this matter.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter. If you have any questions, please feel free to give me a call.

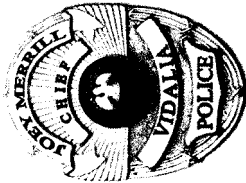
Sincerely,

Joey Merrill, Chief of Police
Vidalia Police Department

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VIDALIA
POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief Joey Merrill
202 Vernon Stevens Blvd.
Vidalia, Louisiana 71373

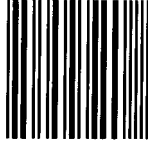
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